

Application No.: 09/820,613
Attorney Docket No. 145934.00003-P1250US00

REMARKS

In the Office action Claims 1 to 45 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as claiming the same invention of co-pending patent application serial numbers 09/820,660; 09/820,659; 09/820,661; and 09/820,662. Applicant respectfully requests this provisional rejection be held in abeyance until Allowance of this patent application.

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE CLAIMED INVENTION

According to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a system is presented for performing a full text search of an information directory, Fig. 12. The query may be a word, a phrase, a numeric range, or combination of words, phrases, numeric range involving Boolean operators. The term(s) can appear as text / numeric in the record and/or be part of a taxonomy (category, sub-category, a sub-sub-category), to which the records in the database are classified, or a combination thereof. The system deterministically identifies the records that contain the actual term(s) in the query, or in the case where the term is part of taxonomy, the system deterministically identifies all the records classified in that category. In addition to identifying the matched records, the system determines the all the categories or sub-categories to which all the matched records are classified together with exactly how many records are in each category. As an example, where a user launches a query for the word "cancer", the system will identify every record in the archive that contains the word "cancer" and, if there is a category in any of the taxonomies called "cancer" all the records that are classified in that category would included in the search results. With the same example, in addition to identifying all the matched search results, the system would provide the user with a summarization of how many records were identified and a breakdown of how the records in the information directory where classified and

organized by presenting the categories from one or more taxonomies together with how many matched records were in each category. The system compiles the number of hits (documents identified) per category and presents the results to the user i.e., the categories are listed along with the number of hits per individual category. The user may, if desired, continue the search or review the contents of the full text document search of the information directory. In the same example, where one of the one possible category is "physicians", and the user selects this category, the system will narrow the number of possible hits by discarding those documents that do not conform to the selected category and further representing the resultant refinement and its applicable subcategories and counts.

THE CITED PRIMARY REFERENCE

The Wical Patent

The US Patent Number 5,940,821 issued to Wical does not disclose a full-text search of an information directory. Rather, the Wical patent discloses a method of solving problems associated with word-based search and retrieval systems (i.e, full-text search) where search results are highly dependant upon the exact words chosen for the query, (Col. 1, Line 50). The Wical patent seeks to solve this problem by utilizing a concept knowledge base where queries do not identify specific responses to a query, but identify potential existence of a document by displaying associated categories and themes, (Col. 5, Line 20) and not search results.

The Wical Patent describes how the invention bridges the gap between the user's view of a description of the information sought (e.g., the search query) and the organization and classification of information in the search and retrieval system (Col. 5 Line 36.) The Wical patent helps the user find information by showing the user how the search term maps to the underlying classification system. The Wical patent does not promote a full-text search of the

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documents. It is noted that there are no illustrations in the Wical patent where actual search results are returned. Only categories that tell the user where he may find what he is looking for. This is a fundamentally different approach than the claimed invention takes to search and retrieval.

COMPARISON OF THE WICAL PATENT TO THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention involves organizing actual search results into the existing categorizations in the database. By actual, it is meant those documents in the repository that actually contain the search term that is entered by the user. In other words, the claimed invention is a full-text search technology where users can launch queries and find the actual documents that contain that word or phrase. The claimed invention relates to the ability of the technology to then organize the search results into multiple hierarchical taxonomies. The idea and notions around full-text search are explained and assumed in the patent application. These ideas are expressly described repeatedly throughout the application.

The categories that are presented in the claimed invention are derived strictly from the hierarchy and the compiled counts are based on the categories of the documents that had full-text search matches of the search keyword, paragraph 43 and 44 and return categories that are associated with the remaining documents and indicates how many documents exist under each category.

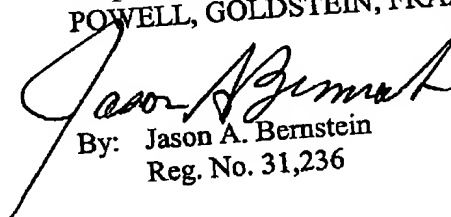
CONCLUSION

Claims 1 to 45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,940,821 to Wical in view of US Patent No. 6,484,177 to Van Huben. The independent Claims 1, 13 and 25 have been amended to recite a full-text search of the information directory and produce a compiled list of documents that actually contain the words delineated in the key-

word search query. The Wical and Van Huben patents do not contain this limitation. In fact, the Wical patent teaches away from the claimed invention by stating the contents of the query and subsequently the response from the word based search and retrieval system is highly dependent upon how the user expresses the query term. Consequently, it is desirable to construct a search and retrieval system that is not dependent upon the exact words chosen in the query, see (Col. 1, Line 50 to 56) of the Wical patent.

In view of the foregoing Amendment to the claims and associated remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner pass this case to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the issuance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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